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Prairie View A&M University

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THE PANTHER



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Volume 94, Issue 16

Thursday, March 20, 2014

pvpanther.com

Fourth Consecutive Time! Lady Panthers grab fourth ring



By Cori Higgins, The Panther

Lady Panthers pose for the cameras after winning their fourth SWAC championship. They faced rivals TSU in a close 63- 58 win at the Toyota Center in Houston.

By Shamaria Knowles
Sports Editor

Entering this year's SWAC tournament the Lady Panthers had one goal on their

minds: 4-in-a-row. On Saturday they were able to raise the championship trophy for the fourth time.

Ending the season on a three game losing streak, head coach Dawn Brown said her team had to get back to being aggressive.

"We slowed down at the end of the season, and I told them that our best basketball will be played in the tournament," Brown said.

The Lady Panthers were able to take a much needed rest, and their first game

against Alabama state was not until Thursday, March 13. The Lady Panthers came out on fire and led 36-28 into halftime.

Championship Page 6

Bamgbola organizes, hosts second international humpday



By Taylor Coleman, The Panther

By Erica Ponder
News Editor

As a result of a student wanting to see more diversity on campus, Campus Activities Board hosted the 2nd international humpday on Wednesday next to the alumni field.

Senior Olatokunbo Bamgbola, a psychology major, says she "pitched" her idea to Orok Orok, assistant director of Student Engagement, and he gave her an opportunity. Bamgbola started international humpday, because she felt "the campus wasn't catering enough to the other cultures on campus."

"PVAMU has over 30 different backgrounds from the Latinos, to the Caribbean, yet they receive no recognition. Humpday is important to the student body, because it is a form of stress release in the middle of the

week," Bamgbola said. "I wanted to do international humpday again, because the first international humpday was a shock to the student body and I know what I did wrong and how to get people more excited about it, which was using Greek life."

Bamgbola also felt that the event helped to represent the student body more. "It shows that this is also our campus. Every Wednesday it's the same American song for the same American crowd, but for those whose second language is English, international humpday says that you are here and we care."

Bamgbola also received help from the African Student Association and Greek organizations on campus. "I wanted the student body to understand the fact that different music from different cultures could be enjoyable to all."

Humpday Page 2

Student, professor attend philosophy conference

By Nia Shy
Panther Staff

Prairie View A&M University was invited to the Eastern American Philosophical conference in Baltimore, Md. Junior sociology major Donnie Moreland and Dr. Mark Tschaepe served as representatives for the university.

The conference discussed the importance of pursuing an education in philosophy. It was one of the largest philosophy conferences ever held. Attendees consisted of students and professional philosophers from all over the world.

PV was the only HBCU that attended this year's conference. This school year marked the first time for someone from Prairie View A&M University to be selected as a speaker for this prestigious conference. This was a very

momentous achievement for the university.

Moreland was the only undergraduate to speak at the conference. His topic was "Bringing Philosophy Back to HBCUs." He discussed promoting philosophy as a major in HBCUs.

Dr. Mark Tschaepe discussed "Abduction, Reconstruction, and an Inconspicuous Bildungsbürgertum."

Moreland stated, "It's important to understand as undergraduates we should take

advantage of this opportunity because it can benefit us as professionals and students. Pay attention to the role that humanities play for us as students."

Moreland said that Prairie View A&M University is the only HBCU, besides Howard, to have a Philosophy club. They hold meetings every Tuesday and Wednesday in room 203 in Woolfolk for any interested students.

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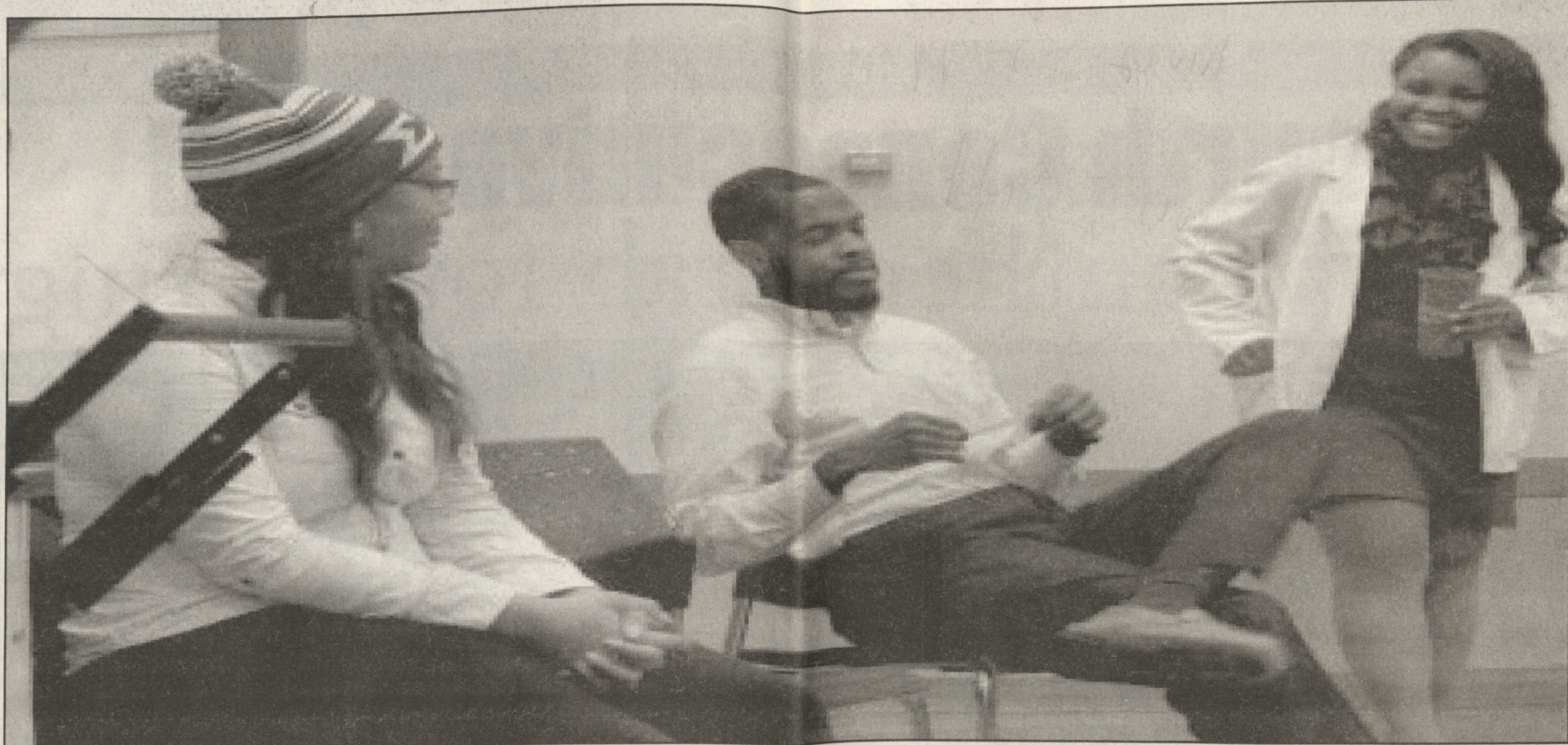


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Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority hosts seminar on drugs and sex awareness



Delta Alpha's anti-basileus, Brinnae Woods, works as a panelist with Gregory Rose while Elizabeth Ekpo, Delta Alpha's basileus, assists by drawing questions.

By Kiara Rabb
Panther Contributor

The Delta Alpha chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. hosted their "Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'N Rholl" seminar Tuesday in the J.B. Coleman Library.

"When it comes to sex and drugs, a lot of it is taboo and people think they know more than they actually do," senior biology major and chapter parliamentarian Vivienne Echendu said. "We wanted to create an environment

where you can ask questions and get different insight from different people."

The seminar included candid and real discussions on topics such as sexuality, double standards in relationships, self-image, and more.

While discussing the difference between sexiness and beauty from a woman's perspective, Delta Alpha's anti-basileus Brinnae Woods believed that beauty radiates from within. "There are things that can define sexiness, but beauty

is something more," said Woods. "You can't go pick up beauty-- you have to show it."

Delta Alpha's graduate advisor Faith Foreman stressed the importance of using caution when sharing personal information like sexual preference or HIV status. "When you get to know people, you don't have to divulge that stuff to a person until you get to that point to where you are getting ready to make a difficult decision," Foreman said.

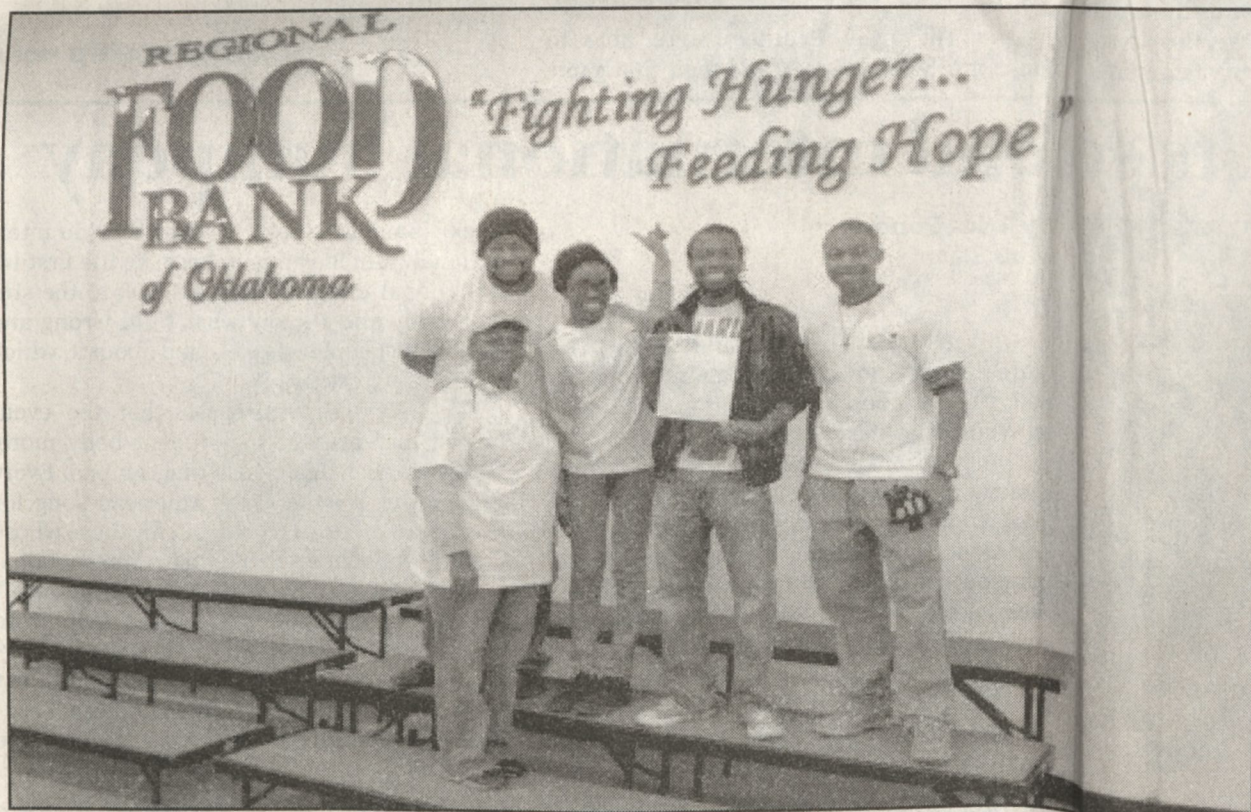
Panther Phi's represen-

tative Gregory Rose shared that sexually transmitted diseases are common on college campuses. "By the age of 25, one in two people who are sexually active will have contracted an STD," Rose said. Rose also believed that the new generation has trouble with communicating to their partners about their sexual history. "We can say everything through direct messages on Instagram or Twitter, but have a difficult time talking before engaging in sexual activity," he said.

Elizabeth Ekpo, Delta Alpha's basileus, concluded the seminar by stating, "We shouldn't talk just to discuss, but we should talk so we can make a change."

Echendu hopes that this event will become bigger for the entire student body in the future. "For the first time that we hosted it, it was a good experience, but I also would want people to be more comfortable and come with more questions," she said.

Collegiate ministry helps to restore, gives back



Advisor Bertha Vaughns poses with The Root members Anthony Smith, Tiffany Ross, Joshua James, and Garrison Stribling in the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

By Anthony Smith
Media Editor

The Root Baptist collegiate ministry held their annual spring break mission trip in Norman, Okla., with the Texas Disaster Relief and Recovery on March 10.

Senior Anthony Smith, senior Tiffany Ross, senior Joshua James, sophomore Garrison Stribling and their advisor, Bertha Vaughns, went on a 6 hour drive to start their spring break and apply what they have learned to the community. The organization was helped by the Church Without Walls through their donation to buy supplies, housing, and food throughout their stay. Once the students arrived to Norman, they settled down at the First Baptist Church Recreational Center where they were housed for their stay.

Their first job consisted of helping local residents who were still in need after the Newcastle-Moore tornado in 2013. The students united with other groups from multiple locations to labor in poor conditions. They contributed by helping home owners clear their land of debris and salvage personal

belongings.

Another engagement they participated in while they were in Norman was the formation of donated food materials at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. The students were outside venturing in bushes and packing food in boxes.

Members of the ministry enjoyed the week of outreach.

Tiffany Ross, a senior electrical engineering major, stated, "My takeaway from this trip is a quote from our mentor/advisor. When asked what advice she had for us, she stated, 'It's not all about you'. Nothing too deep, very simple words in fact, but these words rang true throughout the trip and I kept repeating 'service above self.' We assisted families in debris clean up from the devastation from the Moore Tornado as well as worked at the local food bank to help the 1 out of 4 starving kids suffering from hunger."

Ross further stated that "As Christians we should live in a mind set that is not centered around ourselves-- a task that is easily overlooked among our age group. This mission trip was a great time of reflection on how God is

using me, and it has helped me to see how I can incorporate service daily. I encourage anyone who is seeking something from God to first seek His face (Chronicles 16:11). In wholeheartedly seeking Him, you will find that service is right around the corner."

Senior electrical engineering major Joshua James stated that "It was a real blessing to participate in the mission trip in Oklahoma City as part of The Root organization at Prairie View A&M University. I participated in working the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma with people all over the country to unite for one cause-- to help others. One out of 4 children in Oklahoma suffer from starvation. In working for the food bank over a span of 2 days, we easily fed over 5,000 children. While time in Miami, Panama, or other tourists spots, we did work. It was one of the most rewarding feelings I've ever experienced. When God calls you to do His work, you must respond in spite of the timing. God doesn't want our leftover time at the end of the day. He wants us to sacrifice our own time for Him."

Humpday

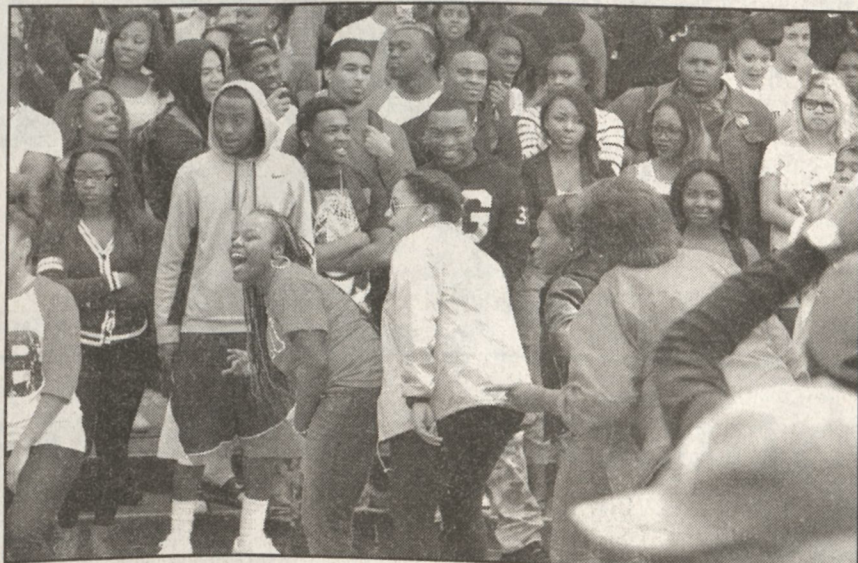
Continued from page 1

Students on campus enjoyed the event.

"It was a great outcome and I love that people got involved," senior psychology major Danna Murungi said. "Other fellow students see how we 'get down,' so hopefully they will grow to love it too."

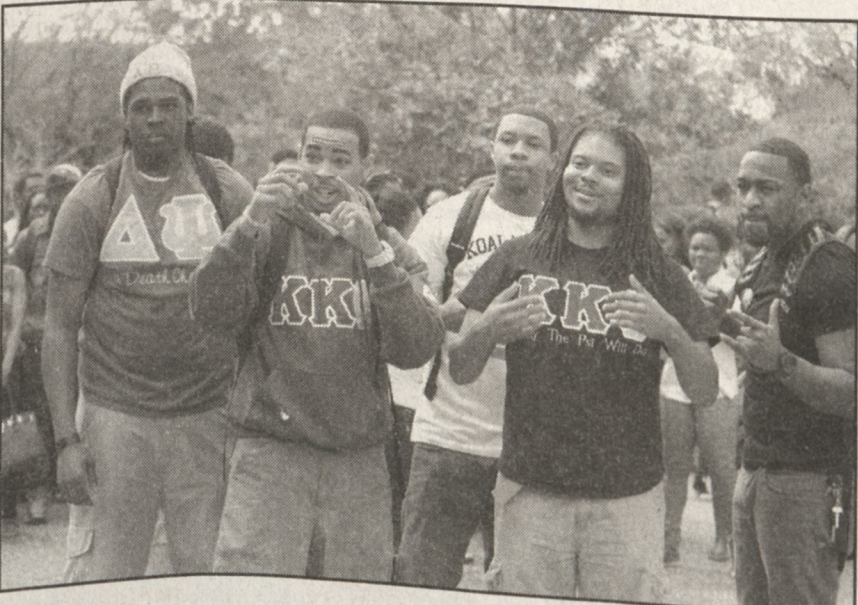
"I think it's a good idea to let our international students have a day where they can 'get live' like we do every Wednesday," senior marketing major Breionne Brantley said.

Different Greek organizations switched their original roll call song with an international song. Kappa Kappa Psi strolled to Calabria by Enur, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. strolled to Murder She Wrote by Chaka Demus and Pliers, Phi Mu Alpha strolled to Turn Me On by Kevin Lyttle, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. strolled to So Special by Mavado, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. strolled to Badman, Pull Up by Badman Forward, and Sigma Alpha Iota strolled to Caribbean Slide by Julian.



By Taylor Coleman, The Panther

Students watched as international music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota strolled to Caribbean Slide by Julian for roll call.



By Taylor Coleman, The Panther

National honorary band fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi awaited as they were about to do roll call to Calabria by Enur.

New hip-hop from the West Coast to the Dirty South

By Rob Hall
Panther Contributor

It has been a long time since someone has dropped quality music for hip-hop fans. But with the release of School Boy Q's "Oxymoron" and Rick Ross's "Mastermind" Hip-Hop fans finally have something to rave about.

School Boy Q tore up the scene with "Oxymoron," selling over 139,000 copies his first week. Debuting at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 "Oxymoron" is a pure example of the liberated Generation Y (people born between the 1980s-2000s) lost in a free society controlled by money, drugs and violence.

Even though School Boy Q has previous albums he's dropped independently, "Oxymoron" is Q's first album he dropped with the help of a major-label, although this hardly affected the quality of his music. "Oxymoron" is far from commercial, even though songs like "Collard Greens," "Los Awesome" and "Man of the Year" are obvious fillers for



Courtesy of flatfitty.com

the radio. School Boy Q still kept it "trill" while at the same time painting a picture of a Hoover Street gangster doing whatever it takes to make it to the top.

With the release of "Mastermind" it is projected that album sales will reach 160,000 copies in the first week. Rick Ross has made a strong come back since his last album "God Forgives and I Don't" ended up being a disappointment to the fans. With P. Diddy serving as the executive producer for "Mastermind" it is no wonder that the album falls no short of greatness.

Rick Ross takes us into the life of a sophisticated kingpin, with hard beats, illuminati references and hot collabs from artist such as, Jay Z, Kanye West, Young Jeezy and The Weekend. Rick Ross has no boundaries on this album, many may even say it is borderline blasphemous. With numerous illuminati references and his many allusions to the Bible.

If you like hard beats and fast music you can listen to on the highway, "Mastermind" and "Oxymoron" are albums that will definitely get you hyped.

Spotlight on presidential candidates



Head to Head: On the left stands candidate Sidney LeBeauf and on the right is candidate Richard Amagwula.

The Student Government Association presidential candidates for the 2014 - 2015 year have been narrowed down to two, Sidney LeBeauf and Richard Amagwula. They now will campaign against each other for the election which will take place on April 1.

Sidney LeBeauf

I am Sidney LeBeauf, a junior Civil Engineering major. I am from Ama, Louisiana, a small town of about 1200 people right outside of New Orleans. My father is a preacher, so early on I learned the importance of having a relationship with God. My faith has allowed me to see that we are all truly equal and we all strive to develop ourselves and those around us. Every day that I wake up I like to measure myself to see if I have done something to better myself and what will I do to better myself. I want to progress into a better man every day. I am passionate about helping myself and helping others develop. As long as I can make a positive impact on myself and my community.

In making my college decision I knew I wanted to go to school outside of Louisiana, but I was not sure where exactly I wanted to go. After visiting Prairie View, I immediately knew that I wanted to attend this great university. The size of the university, the mellow atmosphere, and the people I interacted with that day made me feel as if I belonged here at Prairie View. Coming to Prairie View was one of the best decisions I have made so far in my life. There are many people and things to do that will help a student develop not only academically, but personally. I believe that the personal growth aspect of college is just as important as the academic development students go through on the campus. Interacting with professors and administrators who care about your academic and personal growth gives me pride in saying that Prairie View is MY university and gives me a sense of confidence when I tell others about the great opportunities here at Prairie View. I enjoy attending Prairie View and anything I can do to help better the university I will do.

Richard Amagwula

I am Richard Amagwula, a junior Political Science major from Missouri City, Texas. Both of my parents were Immigrants from Nigeria and were educated in America. Their Nigerian upbringing allowed for them to instill in me a sense of pride for oneself and also the drive to accomplish anything I set my mind to. I will admit that Prairie View was not my first option in choosing a university but after spending time here I fell in love. I fell in love with the HBCU lifestyle and the education that made me feel like more than a number. Prairie View made me into the man I am today and allowed me to see the greatness in people and the world. The motto that Prairie View produces productive people couldn't be any more accurate. Coming to Prairie View allowed me to learn that life is what you make it and that is what I want all Panthers to realize. There are many opportunities at Prairie View and it is up to the students to know that Prairie View is what will make you into what you want to be in life. This university is ours and as student we should take the initiative to reach our full potential not only as students, but in life. In life you may take a path that you may not feel will lead you to greatness but my strong belief in God allows me to know that everything happens for a reason. Coming to Prairie View A&M was done for a purpose and I believe it was done for me to lead and meet the great people that walk this campus daily. My strong belief and pride for the school has allowed me to want to lead Prairie View A&M University to greatness.

HBCU's imprint upon society today

By Helen Massele
Panther Contributor

College is an important entity in an adolescent's life. This is the time where individual build relationships, finds a career, and develop themselves into responsible adult; A crucial component is where to attend college in these years. HBCUs have been on the rise of the competing universities to draw attention to this matter.

Prairie View A & M University was established in Texas on August 14, 1876, during the Reconstruction period in the Civil War. This made it the second oldest public university in Texas. According to Prairie View's History, "its original name was Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth". It was not until the sixty-third legislation that the name was changed in 1973 to Prairie View A & M University.

Other things to factor in when selecting a university are the location, cost of attendance, and the degree options. Prairie View's student to faculty ratio is 17 to 1, which is a small environment in which a student can develop. It is located 45 minutes outside of Houston, Texas. There is also the return on your investment as most economists would say that we all want to achieve.

In researching various



Taylor Coleman, The Panther

Panther Pride: Students enjoying the campus and its scenery.

school, Prairie View A & M University was ranked as number one for the starting average salary. According to HBCU Lifestyle's website, Prairie View A & M University graduates starts with a starting salary of \$49,300, Bowie State University with \$46,400, and Hampton University with \$46,300 rounding out the top three universities." Howard University was ranked in 8th place at \$41,700 and Morehouse College with \$44,200 in fifth place. Spelman College didn't even

make the top 10 in starting average salaries.

Overall, it goes to show that going to the most expensive school does not always guarantee job security. Remember to consider the facts of every aspect of a university. Prairie View A & M University, has managed to provide an environment for students' growth. Just like the university's motto, "Prairie View Produces Productive People" which is shown in our number one ranking for average salary.

Chi Epsilon Alpha exposes fifth graders to 'The Hill'



Photography Khaya Carter, The Panther

Young Souls: Fifth grade students first lay eyes on PV.

By Khaya Carter
Panther Staff

Sammie Johnson, graduate assistant in Prairie View A&M Universities art gallery, and the aspiring teachers of Chi Epsilon Alpha

hosted 35 fifth grade students from Jones Elementary School.

Starting off with a tour of University College the fifth graders were able to see the UC's movie theatre, multi purpose room, computer lab, and a glimpse of freshman dormitories. Raymond,

a pupil attending the field trip said, "When you come to Prairie View you [will] love it a lot, and you will have fun."

About 10:15 a.m. the students arrived at the fourth floor library and gallery and were read Harlem by Walter Dean

Myers in commemoration of Black History Month. "What an amazing opportunity this [is] for our students at JES to get to see black history first hand," said Kimberly Perry, Jones Elementary librarian. They also took a tour of the gallery and viewed the current exhibits.

Shawna Fields, senior and president of Chi Epsilon Alpha, explained her greatest moment of the elementary hosting was "actually seeing the kids smile about going to college because a lot of the students at Jones Elementary School are at risk students," meaning they are at risk of

not attending college.

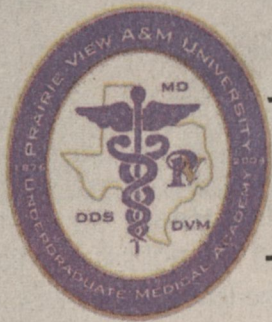
Elaborate balloon art was given to the students to conclude their visit.

"I would like to make this an annual event with Jones and also promote the art gallery as an thriving entity on Prairie View's campus," Sammie Johnson added. Chi Epsilon Alpha as well as Jones Elementary wants to continue this field trip each year.



All Smiles: The Chi Epsilon Alpha members and fifth graders still smile after their long day on PV campus.

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Express Yourself Freely



Ashley Youngs
Sophomore
Agriculture and Human Science Major



Geneva Lathan
Sophomore
Engineering Major



James Curry
Junior
Human Performance Major

Ashley compliments her pink shoes with a purple sweater wrapped around her waist and a floral skirt.

Ashley wears the hottest shirt of the moment, the El Chopo shirt.

She strikes an attitude defining pose at international humpday.

Geneva wears an oxford shirt with ankle grazer pants.

She wears a neon heel to make the outfit pop.

She gives us life with her lime colored hair, that demands attention from others.

Her oversized bag is not just for fashion but is practical also.

James wears black True Religion jeans with a versace-ish shirt.

He accessorises with leopard print shoes and a gold watch.

His look is reminiscent of 2 chainz.

Defining style from my perspective

By Aubrini Thompkins
Panther Staff

"Style is a way of saying who you are without having to speak." - Rachel Zoe

Rachel said it best when she made this statement, your fashion and style says a lot about who you are. What you wear is an unconscious, sometimes conscious, decision on what you want to tell the world. There have been many times I have just sat back and watched people; how they move in their clothes; how a person feels really comes out when they wear particular pieces. When you think about it, there are a few places when you can definitely see a wide range of expression through people's clothing; work, casual/formal hangout spots, and the Holy Grail... school. From the moment we were allowed to choose our own outfits for school we have analyzed every aspect of that outfit. One of the things you learn in college is that, for some, every day is a huge fashion show. You're trying to

impress that guy or girl, emulate how professional you are or aren't, or just show everyone that you know how to dress. However, there comes a time when some might have to mute their personality just a bit, or tweak it for those who think "mute" is too harsh. Going to class shouldn't be the opportunity for you to bust out those new Egyptian print jeggings with the matching jacket (I love the 90s too but sometimes the past is the past), or those daisy dukes in 30 degree weather.

Fashion isn't just about expression, it's about timing, place, and level of appropriateness. If the time and place are wrong, chances are the appropriateness is way off. So before you leave the house tomorrow, stop and think long and hard about what your outfit is really saying about you. Remember fashion makes more than just one statement.

20 QUESTIONS ASK.FM/PVPANTHER

1. Who's going to the 3rd level video shoot?
2. Why is it in a one-story building?
3. Who got new furniture in the phases?
4. How many people took the old furniture to their house?
5. How was everybody's spring break?
6. Did everybody go to South Padre?
7. Or was everybody in SXSW?
8. Whose room got flooded in the phases?
9. Was it a roommate who did it?
10. Is it true that the Deltas didn't make their deadline?
11. Does that mean that they won't have a line this year?
12. Who will be the PV's choice award models this year?
13. Will they take anybody?
14. Who went to the SWAC tournament?
15. Can we say that the girls wanted it more?
16. Who's going to team bio kickback?
17. Why did it take them so long to throw a party?
18. Whose midterm grades were horrible?
19. Is it ever too late to drop?
20. What do you think?

Championship Continued from page 1

Coming out in the second half, Alexis Parker pushed the lead to 39-28, before Alabama State came back and tied the game up at 47. Free throws played a huge factor in this game as the Lady Panthers edged Alabama State, 71-61.

Leading the way for the Lady Panthers was Jeanette Jackson with 25 points and five steals. LaRae Washington followed up with 14 points, six steals and three assists.

The next day the Lady Panthers faced Southern University who they have not beaten all season. Southern came out aggressive but cooled down as the

Lady Panthers outscored the Lady Jaguars 31-9 over the last 14:56 to take a 34-17 lead into halftime.

The Lady Jaguars trimmed the Lady Panthers lead down to 11, but with a strong performance from Jackson, Larissa Scott, and Shamiya Brooks the Lady Panthers didn't look back. The Lady Panthers went up by as much as 32 points before claiming the 72-43 to advance to their fourth straight SWAC championship appearance.

This championship game was a special one due to the fact that the Lady Panthers would take on their hometown rivals the Lady Tigers of Texas Southern.

The game was very tight from the beginning. The Lady Tigers took a 9-3 lead before coach Brown called a

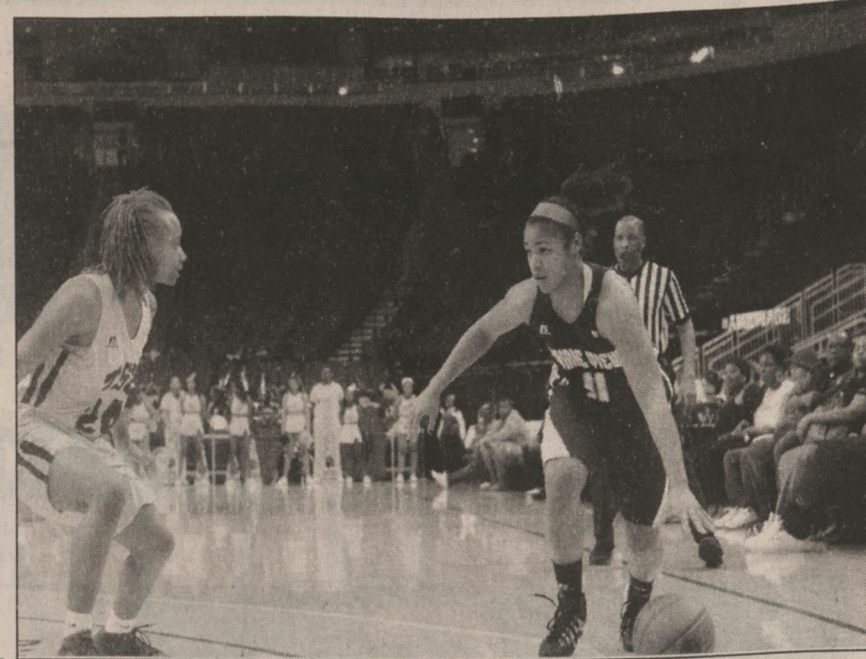
much needed timeout to calm her team down. Midway through the first half the Lady Panthers went on a 13-3 run to take a 26-17 lead.

The Lady Tigers came charging back as they knotted the game up at 26 with 1:43 left in the first half. with 30 seconds left in the half, Washington, nailed a deep three pointer, which gave the Lady Panthers a 31-29 lead going into halftime.

Coach Brown said she told her team at halftime that this was their game and they had to finish.

"I told them that they could not let Texas Southern steal this from them. This is our game and we have a mission to complete," said Brown.

The second half was



Courtesy of Cori Higgins

Gabrielle Scott looks to drive past opponent during championship game

not much different from the first. Throughout the game there were nine lead changes and six ties, with majority coming in the second half. The Lady Tigers struck first, but Jackson hit two consecutive shots to take a 35-31 lead.

Behind the player of the year Jazzmin Parker, the Lady Tigers went on a 9-2 run to take a 40-37 lead.

Baskets were hard to come for both teams toward the end of the game, but a Lady Tigers' technical foul gave the momentum back to the Lady Panthers. Free throws were a key factor in this win. Jackson hit six consecutive free throws to ensure the Lady Panthers their fourth straight championship. With the 63-58 win the Lady Panthers

punched their ticket to the big dance.

When asked what sparked her from knocking down the crucial free throws, Jackson said it's confidence.

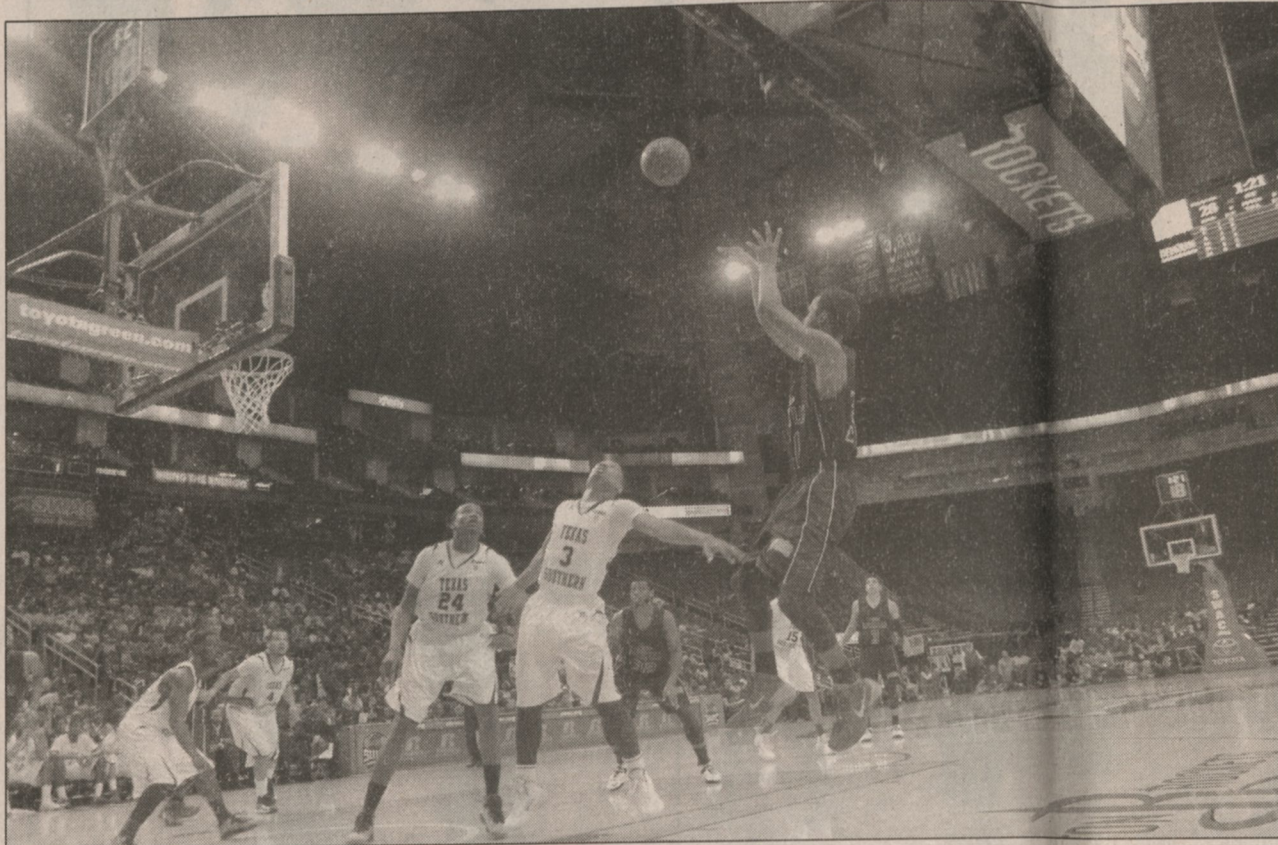
"I have been here three years in a row, so I am just confident that I can knock down my free throws," she said.

Needing only 18 points to become the all-time single season scoring leader, Jackson helped her team, giving them 22 points, nine rebounds, and four assists. Following her was Washington with 20 points who has also won a championship every year since being at Prairie View.

The Lady Panthers will take on top-seeded Connecticut for the second time in three seasons, on Sunday at 8 p.m. in Storrs, Conn.

The game will be nationally televised on ESPN.

Panthers lose momentum in championship game



Courtesy of Cori Higgins

Snatched away: Montreal Scott fades away during championship game against Texas Southern.

By Kierra Spencer
Panther contributor

The Panthers entered the tournament as the 8th seed and were not favored to get out the first round.

Looking to capture a SWAC Championship, but for the second year their chances were snatched away from them. Coming off a seven game losing streak to end the regular season, the Panthers needed to get back on a winning track.

They were able to find their rhythm early on in the tournament.

In the first round, the Panthers opened the tournament facing Mississippi Valley State at the Toyota Center. With a solid team effort they were able to cap-

ture a 79-63 victory over the Delta Devils. With Jules Montgomery leading the way with a double-double of 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The Panthers next opponent in the tournament were the number one ranked Southern Jaguars. They were able to pull off a Tournament shocker, winning 64-46, as they executed in all phases of the game to move to the semifinal game.

The Panthers defense was on full display as they pressured the Jaguars into bad shots all night long. The win over the Jaguars was the first after going 0-7 against them.

Tre Hagood led the way with 16 points, eight rebounds, four steals and three assist. Hagood also earned All-Tournament team honors, alongside with teammates Louis Munks and Montrael Scott.

The third game of the tournament came against Alabama A&M as the Panthers were able to win 55-49 close game.

Hagood became the leader of the team as he led them with 13 points.

The SWAC Championship led to a Houston showdown between in state rival Texas Southern University.

The Panthers came out on fire as Junks were on fire from the field in the first half.

To start the second half, the Panthers settled for too many jump shots. With the help of Aaric Murray the Tigers were able to work the paint and get great shots. The Panther had no answer for Murray, and in the end they only able to get a reach of 5 points. For the 2nd year in the row.

New sport hits PV campus



Courtesy of Denzel Speights

Members of the rugby team help each other through practice.

By Denzel Speights
Panther Staff

The game of rugby has emerged on the campus of Prairie View A&M University.

Player and coach Jonathan Riley brought interest of having a rugby club, potentially a team, here on the hill.

"It is a sport that I admire. I've been admiring since I was a little kid and I am proud to bring it to this wonderful university," said Riley. Along with Riley, manager Jonathan Ferguson helps with operations for the club.

"I am out here watching their condition, making sure they do nothing crazy to their bodies. Most importantly I act as a motivational coach; keeping them in check, helping them strive for higher heights and goals that they couldn't possibly reach," said Ferguson.

Rugby is a sport that is easily understood yet complicated by its 60 minutes of fast-paced, hard-hitting contest. There are no timeouts and only 5-minute halftime break.

All players play both offense and defense throughout the match, and the most fascinating fact is that anybody can play. Big or short, tall or skinny, they have a position for every body type. "Rugby is for that small

man that has been kicked in the face and has been stabbed multiple times, and they just keep getting back up," said fullback Anfernee '17' Jefferson.

Most importantly the sport is highlighted by its social impact. It only trails soccer (geographically) in popularity. The game is painted by its competitive nature but it also demands sportsmanship to all athletes who participate.

"Rugby is a way of togetherness, it's unity. It's a way in bringing energetic men, and some aspect of females, together to play a great game," said Ferguson.

"Most people don't know about rugby or never heard of rugby. It's kind of hard trying to explain the sport, most people have not seen it or pay attention to it," said Ferguson.

Even though it's not a known sport here, it didn't stop many students in participating and learning to play.

Eighth man Malik Johnson expressed what rugby is to him, "It's a way to stay in shape and a way to have fun while I'm here at Prairie View."

In addition the rugby club is planning to play several different schools.

"We have a game coming up this Wednesday against U of H. We have a chance to play against LSU; SWAC tour is coming up, and more importantly we have a chance to play against our rival schools like TSU, TCU," said Ferguson.

The clubs hope is to become an official team of Prairie View.

Opinion

A look into the men's basketball team

By Cameron Thomas
Panther Contributor

The Prairie View A&M men's basketball team wrapped another disappointing, yet ironically heart breaking season. Once again they were able to advance to the finals of the SWAC tournament, only to be defeated by a better team.

Some may say there is a talent disparity between the teams and while that may be true, close games in sports come down to coaching. Panthers' coach Byron Rimm II has proved that he just isn't capable of getting these boys over the hump.

Rimm took the reigns of the Panther basketball team in the 2006-2007 season. Since his inception, his overall coaching record is a disgraceful 99-156. That is a winning percentage less than 40, .388 to be exact. This can't be acceptable on any level.

Rimm arrived at Prairie View with an average record. While at Jarvis Christian College, Rimm guided the team to a second place finish in the Red River Athletic Conference, including a NAIA tournament appearance, the first in three decades.

After the initial appearance in the national tournament, Rimm and JCC only appeared in one other national tournament before he became an assistant at Prairie View during the 2005-2006 season.

Since Rimm took over, the fans have had only two winning seasons-2008-2009 and 2009-2010 going 17-16 and 16-14 respectively. Two winning seasons in eight campaigns is absolutely absurd. This is beyond mediocrity.

The Panthers have continued to live in the doldrums of the SWAC for quite sometime. The window to win a title and advance to the NCAA tournament seems to be closed although the question to when it ever opened could definitely be posed.

This past season the Panthers experienced a series of losing streaks. The streaks encompassed four, six and seven games. The seven game losing streak came at an awful time as the Panthers were attempting to make a run at a higher conference rank.

The seven game losing streak helped the Panthers land the fifth seed in the SWAC tournament. The Panthers played four games in five days while falling to Texas Southern in the championship game.

Fatigue could've been an issue.

Late in the season every team is tired and feeling rundown. The arduous college basketball season takes its toll on everyone. It's up to the leadership in place to motivate the players to push through. Leadership starts with the coach.

The Prairie View A&M men's basketball team has let the fans down season after season. The performance has at times been putrid. Head coach Byron Rimm II has been at the helm far too long to produce so little.

The fans haven't seen a title in over a decade. The proof is in the pudding. Rimm has not been the entire problem, but his inability to lead, inspire and overall coaching ability has been a problem nonetheless. It is in the best interest of Athletic director Ashley Robinson to relieve Rimm of his duties and start fresh with a new face.

Swift action is much needed and long overdue. Rimm should be relieved and a new coach outside of the Prairie View system must be the new face. If not, Prairie View will only continue to celebrate one basketball team winning championships.

SGA SPEAKS OUT

By Kashara B. Smith
Executive Press Secretary

Presidential Candidates

A message from Candidate: **Oluchukwu Richard Amagwula**, a Junior Political Science Major from Missouri City, TX.

"In becoming President of Student Government I have three objectives that I will accomplish. First I will make Prairie View A&M Student Government into what it should be, a group of student representatives from each student department. Each student in SGA should be an advocate of all things that pertain to Prairie View and Student Relations. Secondly, I want all students to be able to not only know SGA's purpose but, also know what exactly SGA is doing at all times. There will be no secrecy and unaccountability within student government. The Prairie View A&M University that we attend today has little Alumni participation in many aspects. We need Alumni who realize the importance of giving to the school that made them into what they are today. The process of making a student into an Alumnus begins from the grass roots. I should be elected as your representative of the student body because I truly believe in the greatness of Prairie View and the success that lies ahead. I want to be at the helm of the success that Prairie View has to offer because I am the one who can lead the student body in the correct path. I urge you all to, "Do The Right Thing" and elect me as your Student Government President and I will be the leader for the people and our productive Pantherland. I want all Panthers to never confuse change as a lack of respect for tradition. Prairie View A&M University; a place for our tradition and your opportunity."

A message from Candidate: **Sidney LeBeauf**, a Junior Civil Engineering major from Ama, Louisiana.

"I plan on implementing my plans by informing more students on what SGA can do for them and what their role is in making this university great. By putting each SGA member's contact information (name, email) on the university's web page, the students will have the opportunity to contact those representatives that can help them with their concerns. The student body is a vital aspect to the success of the university and their concerns must be heard."

Vice Presidential Candidates

A message from Candidate: **Ivan L. Butler**, a senior Marketing & Management Information Systems major from Houston by way of Chicago.

"Prairie View A&M University's best interest lies deep within my heart. So, by implementing a 3 point platform: representation, recreation, restoration, I will devote my time and thoughts to creating effective new ideas with the help of the student body, that will help our University become a more progressive and productive institution, especially through the representation of the student bodies voice, recreation in student life, for the restoration of the student body's spirit. In the four years I have observed Prairie View A&M University at its best and worst. However, one thing remained constant throughout these four years and that's the LOVE and RESPECT the student body has for PVAMU. It is out of that same LOVE and RESPECT that I pledge to carry into the position of SGA Executive Vice President. It hurts to see my fellow Panthers livid with the administration and faculty. As SGA Executive VP, I promise to become a bridge that unites us all and that connects our problems to solutions. Now more than ever, the student body deserves a leader who will allow them to cast their issues and concerns upon. PVAMU I am ready to accept that position. LEADERSHIP, ACCOUNTABILITY, SERVICE, DETERMINATION, and EXPERIENCE are all the qualities I am eager to share with you and SGA."

A message from Candidate: **Draylon Leassear**, a Construction Science and Architecture double major from Houston, TX.

"I believe SGA leaders must promote the diversity on their campuses. This is ever more important given falling enrollments at some HBCUs. Many students of various racial and ethnic backgrounds could benefit from the nurturing, yet challenging environments at HBCUs as well as the lower tuition. I propose that the selection of "SPIT" Knowledge Speakers, Commencement Speakers, Homecoming Activities, Spring Fest and Intramural Sports be chosen to reflect our growing diverse population at PVAMU and not just as a one month or day celebration (ex. Cinco De Mayo, Asia Pacifica Day, etc.) I believe elected officials city& county, civic leader, and clergy should work/serve together with the elected PVAMU SGA ... the student at Prairie View A & M University are the largest stakeholders because we carry the weight of the votes for elected officials who serve where we live for the 4 ...may 5/6 years that we attend this university... we need to maximize our experience by assisting in developing infrastructure that serves our needs...ex. bookstores, gas stations, healthcare, wellness centers, salons/ barbershops, entertainment centers etc.) We do this by: 2) Identifying local assets and creating and carrying out a strategic plan based upon these assets; and 3) Joining with other jurisdictions to maximize economic resources. Lastly, I propose that we enroll PVAMU freshman into Pre-alumni Council...collaborating with local and national PVAMU alumni chapters to assist in providing those Pre-Alumni Council members transportation to sporting events (high school students attending the same events will get a visual of the type of atmosphere based on what that see...)"

Comptroller Candidates

A message from Candidate: **Kionne Kemp**, a Criminal Justice and English double major from Atlanta, GA.

"I aspire to be "G.R.E.A.T." for the student body of Prairie View A&M University. As Student Government Association Comptroller 2014-2015 I will be "G.R.E.A.T": Guaranteed service to my collegiate peers, a Readiness to act on any call of duty for the comptroller position, the Eagerness to push for great change in SGA for better cohesion amongst the three branches, an Attentiveness to all funds to make sure no funds are never mismanaged, and the Trustworthiness and integrity I will always maintain with in my position."

A message from Candidate: **Jamaal Rutherford**, a junior Accounting major from Houston, TX.

"My platform is "The PV's MoneyTeam." I have three goals that I wish to accomplish if elected the 2014-2015 Student Government Association Comptroller. One is to promote the awareness of how organizations can allocate funds from the Student Government Association. Many organizations here on campus do not realize that the Student Government Association can lend them money in order to benefit the organization or Prairie View A&M University Student Government Association is here to support them as long as they are branding positive images. Two, to inform the students on how the Student Government Association spends their money. I will provide them with a break down that will allow them to understand where the money is spent from Student Government Association. Three, create an open door policy to help the students realize that the Student Government Association is here for them. The Student Government Association is a voice from the students to administration. "When money speaks, the truth will remain silent," meaning if the amount of money being held is properly used and spent wisely, you won't hear any complaints. As the 2014-2015 Comptroller, I will be here to make sure that happens."

I am a Queen

By Celia Hinkson

I AM A QUEEN. The very essence of those words is impactful in breaking down the barriers of insecurities, regret and rejection; allowing one's self to love themselves unconditionally and be held to a higher standard.

So many times on this campus and around the world, women get lost in what we think society wants us to be, to act, and to even think. But when we declare ourselves with this statement, it sets a precedence, a movement, a time for change. "I AM" declares not that someday you will be, but that you are living by those words. To say "I AM" is to say from this moment on you are making a change for yourself and the world.

To combine this powerful beginning with "A QUEEN" is stating that you as a woman know that you are capable of obtaining an education, serving your campus and community, being a role model, being strong in your faith, and reaching out to uplift women around you instead of tearing them down. "A QUEEN" does not state

that she will always be perfect, but holds herself to a higher standard. She knows in her mind and spirit what it takes to succeed not just in her education, but as a role model to others. To be "A QUEEN" is to encourage other women to be queens.

You do not need to walk around in tight or revealing clothing, nor should you post photos of yourself dressed as such on your social media websites. You do not need to put other women down in order to make yourself feel better. You do not need to feel envious of another woman's accomplishments; instead let that motivate you to continue to accomplish your dreams in life.

It's not letting your past mistakes define you, but learning from them and changing for the better. "A QUEEN" knows she is worth more than the number she sees on a scale, the clothes she wears, and that it doesn't matter how many guys wish they had them, or how much their shoes cost. She knows she is worth more than the score on the top of

her math test and even more than the followers she has on Twitter. It's time to drop the leggings and the "selfies" and start making a declaration.

Stating "I AM A QUEEN" is declaring that you will continue to empower yourself and those around you. It's knowing and believing that I AM DESERVING. I AM POWERFUL. I AM A VOICE. I AM A LEADER. I AM LOVED. I AM STRONG. I AM CAPABLE.

Living and breathing in the essence of these words will allow a woman to see all of her beauty and capabilities. If every woman believed this, they could enlighten an entire generation and even a world of women to see that they are queens.

This declaration "I AM A QUEEN" will create a movement of women to show a more positive image of themselves in the uplifting of one another in their personal lives, in their education and in any of their future aspirations. How much do you think this campus would change if every woman declared and lived by this statement? I AM A QUEEN. ARE YOU?

Motivations of Mercy: 3 L Words that can mess any woman up!

By: Sylvania Esosa Omokaro
Panther Staff



By Andre Williams III, The Panther

It is women's history month, so naturally I asked myself what topic I could bring to you that is prevalent in women. Then it hit me! There are three L words that can get any woman (or man) in trouble.

Love: Biblically speaking love is patient and kind. It is void of inflated egos. It doesn't "feel itself too much" where authenticity becomes impossible. Love is often a choice. Yes it can bring warmth and butterflies and all the gushy things that Disney has ever promised. But beyond these things is commitment. It means choosing to love someone beyond their flaws. It means choosing to do what is necessary instead of what might be wanted. In our world, the media sells warped ideals.

It teaches us that love is either magical or dysfunctional. Magical, because it suggest that two flawed beings can come together and love each other to perfection. Only agape love can do that – the unconditional love of Christ. But if two people have not submitted themselves to that kind of love, they cannot exhibit it.

As for the dysfunctional part, we learn that heartbreak after heartbreak is just a part of the game. We are told to let our guard if we really want to find love. But the bible teaches us that we should guard our heart because out of it flows the issues of life. When we don't do that, we find ourselves going from one unhealthy relationship to the next.

Love is more than an emotion. Because feelings are like visitors, they come and go, but love endures all things. Its basis are commitment, kindness, patience, responsibility, protection, trusts, and it rejoices in truth.

Lust: Someone once asked me have I ever been in love, and I thoughtfully paused and said no. Because the truth is, I've been in lust. Any intense desire or craving can be classified as lust. IT DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SEXUAL! So how do I detect lust? Well I am glad you asked!

First you must understand that lust deals with pleasing fleshly desires ONLY. It differs from love because we love from our spirits and lust rebels against it. One way that lust may surface is through our insecurities. Some of us desire to be desired. We want to belong and know that we have someone in our lives that cherishes us. Is that so wrong?

Yes it can be. This shows that you want someone to boost your ego instead of finding security in God. Lust arises from vulnerable places ie. Daddy Issues. You might unknowingly look for daddy in all the wrong places. Every relationship, you try to force your significant other to do for you all the things that your father never did. And now you find yourself selfish and

unreasonable, or even worse in an abusive relationship with a controlling person that has preyed on your very weakness.

Why? Your lust is based on the absence of self-love and the refusal to accept the fatherly love of God. We all know that lust can be sexual. We might find ourselves to be very sexual beings, but these appetites might be out of control. We might find ourselves exhibiting sexual behaviors from deep rooted problems such as childhood molestation or rape.

We might do it validate ourselves as a man or a woman. We might feel like our sexual identity lies in what we possess between our legs. As we can see lust is a "heart issue". One of the biggest ways that lust seeps into our lives is through our next L word...

Loneliness: We do not like feeling alone. Humans desire companionship. Even God said "It is not good for man to be alone". But Adam was content being alone. Loneliness can be experienced surrounded by a sea of people.

A better description of it would be to feel disconnected from others. The discontentment that comes from that is where we mess up! Why should we be discontent, we have God. That might seem cliché but that is the truth. He is always with us. And if we would just take a moment to experience Him through fellowship, we would make wiser decision.

We miss so many opportunities because we do not know how to endure our seasons that calls for us to be alone. In Genesis, the bible talks of a man name Jacob. Jacob had a crazy life like a lot of us. H came from a family where each parent had a favorite. There was sibling rivalry that caused him to flee. But God was doing something in all of this.

He got Jacob alone. Jacob could not depend on anyone but God. Jacob said "I will not let go until you bless me!" Alone time will do some things for you. It will clear your vision, and show you who and what is real. But loneliness is the enemy's way of corrupting what God intended for good. Do not allow loneliness trick you into confusing lust for love.

Biblical references:
1 Corinthians 13:4
Proverbs: 4:23
Jeremiah 17: 9
Genesis 32:26

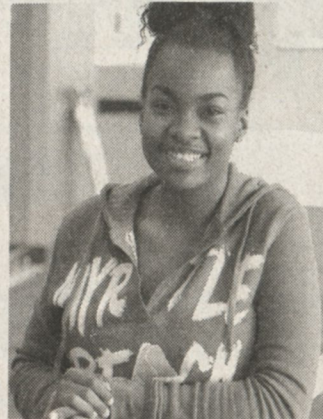
YOUR VOICE

Photos by Taylor Coleman

What events do you want to take place during this year's spring fest?



JaMarcus Payton
Bio-Chemical Engineering Senior



"I want another Panther palooza"

Auja Smith
Chemistry Major Senior

"I think it would be pretty cool if the campus did like a walking dead event."

Photos of the Week

SPRING
is here!

Official Start of Spring is...
March 20, 2014



By Taylor Coleman



By Taylor Coleman



By Cori Higgins



By Cori Higgins



By Cori Higgins



By Rania Dotson



By Cori Higgins



By Cori Higgins



By Cori Higgins



By Cori Higgins



By Taylor Coleman



By Rania Dotson

Fri. Mar. 21



Partly Cloudy
10% Chance of
Precip.
High: 75 °F
Low: 61 °F

Sat. Mar. 22



Mostly Cloudy
20% Chance of
Precip.
High: 65 °F
Low: 45 °F

Sun. Mar. 23



Showers
40% Chance of
Precip.
High: 65 °F
Low: 53 °F

Mon. Mar. 24



Few Showers
30% Chance of
Precip.
High: 60 °F
Low: 49 °F

Tues. Mar. 25



Mostly Cloudy
0% Chance of
Precip.
High: 67 °F
Low: 46 °F

Wed. Mar. 26



AM Clouds/ PM
Sun
10% Chance of
Precip.
High: 63 °F
Low: 51 °F

Thurs. Mar. 27



Cloudy
20% Chance of
Precip.
High: 68 °F
Low: 60 °F